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August 29, 2002

Chairman Getman
 and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson
 Fair Political Practices Commission
 428 J Street, Suite 620
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: September 5, 2002 Commission Meeting - Agenda Item #15

Dear Chairman Getman and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson:

It has just come to my attention that all State agencies have been asked to submit a plan to cut expenditures by 20% in fiscal year 2003-04. As I am unable to attend your September 5th meeting to participate in this dialogue, I am submitting this letter and request that you take it into consideration during your deliberations and decision-making process.

I am currently the Chief Deputy City Clerk/Records Management Officer in the City of Gardena and have held this position for eight years; I have been in the City Clerk profession for 13. As you are fully aware, City Clerks serve as filing officers for campaign statements, as well as for Statements of Economic Interest filed by designated employees. As Chief Deputy City Clerk, I actively support our part-time, elected City Clerk in receiving and reviewing all such filings. With respect to the August 26, 2002 memo to the Commission, from Chairman Getman and Executive Director Krausse, I emphatically point out that cuts to certain FPPC programs will directly impact City Clerks in their role as filing officers. Following are the areas in which budget cuts would create the biggest impacts:

Technical Assistance Hotline

During my 13-year tenure in the City Clerks profession, I have had numerous occasions to use this service. I used this service when budgets were tight and it was virtually impossible to get answers to questions in a timely manner. As you know, PRA regulations are very complicated and can be intimidating to anyone who is not familiar with them. Having access to the Division's toll-free number and technical assistance advice line allows me to obtain accurate and timely advice when needed. I readily refer our filers (candidates and designated employees) to use the Hotline when I am unable to answer their questions. I have heard only positive comments from filers regarding their experience in using the toll-free number, especially in their ability to obtain immediate answers. My own experience with the Hotline has been nothing but positive and has certainly facilitated my role in this regard. I have complete confidence that, when I call, I will be able to speak to someone immediately, or receive a return call within hours, and the advice they provide will be accurate. The quality of the advice, as well as being able to receive it in a timely fashion is crucial.

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Outreach Program

I have not personally participated in the Filing Officer Outreach Program, however, my colleagues who have, endorse it wholeheartedly. This program was extremely valuable to them, and based upon the assistance and guidance provided by FPPC staff, they implemented numerous procedures and amendments to insure their ongoing compliance with the duties and functions of a filing officer. This program is invaluable and should continue to be made available to anyone who serves in a filing officer capacity. No price can be put on a service that provides one-on-one assistance and guidance.

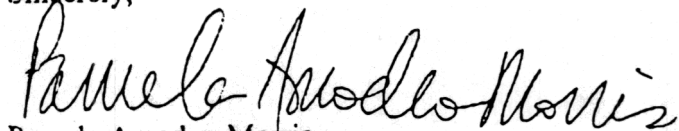
Filing Officer Training Programs and On-Site Seminars

I take the opportunity to attend at least one of these seminars each year. I find them to be extremely valuable in providing insight and hands-on guidance related to existing, amended, and new procedures and laws. Based on these positive experiences, I strongly encourage our City Clerk, particularly when newly elected, to attend as well. I also encourage my department's Records Supervisor to attend, as she is actively involved in preparing and mailing the required forms to filers, and then forwarding those filed to the FPPC, as required. Again, I have heard nothing but positive comments about the quality, clarity, and helpfulness of these seminars.

While I fully understand that you have been tasked with the responsibility of making these cuts, I respectfully request and hope that you will consider my comments and identify areas where cuts can be made that will not impact the services the FPPC currently provides to City Clerks, as well as to their agencies' filers. The services now provided are exemplary, and you and your staff are to be highly commended for the improvements made in recent years. In order to preserve the integrity of the Political Reform Act, it is imperative that these services remain intact as they are functioning today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Pamela Amodeo-Morris
Chief Deputy City Clerk/Records Management Officer

cc: Rachel C. Johnson, City Clerk